

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 5-9, 16-27, and 38-40 are allowed. Applicants canceled claims 1-4, 10-15, and 28-37 without prejudice to put the application in condition for allowance. Applicants reserve the right to seek protection of claims 1-4, 10-15, and 28-37 in a continuation application.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-3, 10, 13, 14, 28-30, 32, 35, and 36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,592,629 to Gamble ("Gamble") in view of AAPA, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,052,376 to Wills ("Wills").

Claims 4, 11, 12, 15, 31, 33, 34, and 37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Gamble, AAPA, and Wills as applied to claims 1, 10, 28, and 32, and further in view of U.S. Publication No. US 2002/0186719 to Subrahmanyam ("Subrahmanyam").


Applicants canceled claims 1-4, 10-15, and 28-37 without prejudice to put the application in condition for allowance. Applicants reserve the right to seek protection of claims 1-4, 10-15, and 28-37 in a continuation application.

Conclusion

If the allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Daniel M. De Vos, Reg. No. 37,813, at (408) 720-8300. If there are any additional charges, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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